

May 12, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Legislative Affairs
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Memorandum for the Record

Subject: FY 2007 Budget Hearing before the Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations,
United States Senate

Date: April 26, 2006

Members

Present: **Republicans:**
Richard C. Shelby, Chairman (AL)

Democrats:
Barbara A. Mikulski, Ranking Member (MD)

Witness: **Dr. Michael Griffin**, NASA Administrator

Summary:

The Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member expressed support for the Vision and other key priorities. They praised the Administrator's leadership of NASA. They expressed support for the priorities identified in the President's FY 2007 request; however, both expressed concern that the FY 2007 budget outcome reflects a "balanced" program, and indicated that they believe additional funds are needed to fund science and aeronautics priorities. They are concerned about aging infrastructure and workforce; and how to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Chairman Shelby raised concerns about NASA's financial management and unobligated balances. Ranking Member Mikulski expressed concerns about China, and its space ambitions.

Summary of Major Discussions/Questions:

- Chairman Shelby opened the hearing by expressing his support for the Vision for Space Exploration; however, he stated that he is troubled about aeronautics and education budget reductions.
- Senator Mikulski began by praising NASA's accomplishments over the past year, but expressed concern over the delays in returning the Space Shuttle to flight and the resultant increased costs. She expressed concerns over Hurricane Katrina damage and stated that "we cannot let China be the first back to the moon..."
- Dr. Griffin summarized the FY 2007 Budget request, stating that the request "strikes a careful, disciplined approach to meeting Congressional priorities and Presidential priorities for the Nation's civil space program within the resources we have." He

highlighted the growth in science programs and accomplishments, explaining the new aeronautics research focus, and stressing the impact earmark growth has on NASA's objectives. He also explained the financial management situation and clarified for the record the smaller current amount of unobligated balances

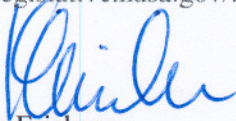
- Chairman Shelby questioned NASA's plans on the Robotic Lunar Exploration Program (RLEP 2). Dr. Griffin replied that NASA plans to start that mission after FY 2007 (due to funding issues), but that Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) will lead the effort.
- Dr. Griffin provided current status on the Crew Exploration Vehicle, the Crew Launch Vehicle and Launch Operations and the leadership roles of Johnson Space Center, MSFC, and Kennedy Space Center, respectively.
- Chairman Shelby asked about how NASA plans to address facilities needs in this budget request, and asked if the Administrator thought "a worthwhile use of the billions in unobligated balances would be to provide the agency with the facilities." Dr. Griffin answered that unobligated balances cannot be a fund source for facilities. He noted that all of NASA's infrastructure is aging, but faced with a decision between "executing missions being run out of old buildings, or having new buildings and not being able to execute missions," he chooses the former.
- Regarding future propulsion research and development (at MSFC), Dr. Griffin stated that NASA first needs to restore the basic capabilities and infrastructure that it once had. Propulsion research should be funded within the next decade.
- Chairman Shelby also expressed concerns regarding science funding levels, specifically the reduction in the FY 2007 science budget for Marshall.
- The Chairman also inquired about NASA's ability to achieve projected Shuttle flight rate to complete ISS assembly.
- Senator Mikulski asked about science missions deferred in the budget request, and whether deferral would become "de facto elimination." Dr. Griffin responded that some smaller missions might not "make the cut," but that major missions' priorities would continue to be respected. The Senator asked about Space Shuttle plans, commitment to repair the Hubble Space Telescope, and NASA's plans on the International Space Station (ISS), especially the utilization of the ISS before, during and after the retirement of the Space Shuttle and the first flight of the Crew Exploration Vehicle. She concluded that more funds were required.
- Senator Mikulski expressed concern about loss of U. S. leadership in aeronautics research.
- Chairman Shelby expressed concern that NASA was not a part of the American Competitiveness Initiative. Dr. Griffin replied that agencies were a part of that initiative that had not received good support in the recent past.

Requests for Information/Material for the Record (due by June 9, 2006)

1. Provide information on material weaknesses in internal controls reported for several years.
2. Provide information on corrective measures undertaken in NASA's financial management to prevent future Anti-deficiency Act violations from occurring.
3. Provide current estimated costs to develop, implement, and maintain NASA's Integrated Enterprise Management Program, including costs incurred to resolve initial implementation of the core financial system.
4. Provide information on the specifics of a "10 percent reduction" of science activities at MSFC.

5. Provide the amount of funds NASA needs in FY 2006 for Hurricane Katrina damage at SSC and MAF.

Copies of NASA testimony can be found at the NASA Office of Legislative Affairs website at <http://legislative.nasa.gov/>.



Kristen Erickson
Director, Appropriations and Budget Division (Acting)
Office of Legislative Affairs

Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices (May 9, 2006)

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Associate Administrator/Mr. Geveden

Chief of Staff/Mr. Morrell

Deputy Chief of Staff and White House Liaison/Mr. Jezierski

Assistant Administrator for Security and Program Protection/Mr. Saleeba

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- Assistant Administrator for Human Capital Management/Ms. Dawsey
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- Assistant Administrator for Procurement/Mr. Luedtke
- Assistant Administrator for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization/Mr. Balinskas (Acting)
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- Assistant Administrator for External Relations/Mr. O'Brien
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Director, Innovative Partnerships Program Office/Ms. McKenzie

Director, Integrated Enterprise Management Program/Mr. German

General Counsel/Mr. Wholley

Inspector General/Mr. Cobb

Directors, NASA Centers

Ames Research Center/Dr. Worden

Dryden Flight Research Center/Mr. Petersen

Glenn Research Center/Dr. Whitlow

Goddard Space Flight Center/Dr. Weiler

Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Dr. Elachi

Johnson Space Center/Mr. Coats

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Marshall Space Flight Center/Mr. King
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cc:

Assistant Associate Administrator/Ms. Johnson
Associate Deputy Administrator for Policy and Planning/Mr. Sterner
Director, Strategic Investments/Mr. Shank
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Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator/Mr. Hopkins